



UPCOMING EVENTS

**PHS Monthly Lecture  
NOTE LOCATION and  
DAY**

**The Parlour  
Trinity United Church**

**Wednesday, November 16  
Speaker Lois Tuffin  
Journalism in Peterbor-  
ough**

**at 7:30 pm**

**Heritage Luncheon  
November 2, December 7,  
12:00 and 1:30 p.m.  
Cost \$15.00  
Advance tickets  
required**

**Christmas Market  
Saturday November 26  
10 am until 12:30 pm.**

**Charles Dickens "A  
Christmas Carol" in the  
Keeping Room by firelight  
on Sunday, December 11  
at 2:00 pm. Cost \$12.00**

Issue 43 I

November 2016

**REMINDER OF LOCATION FOR MEETINGS.** This year, while the Library is closed, the Historical Society will continue to hold its monthly meetings on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in The Parlour, Trinity United Church** (entrance off parking lot on Reid Street).

**Lois Tuffin to speak  
on the Journalist in Peterborough  
on Wednesday November 16  
at the Parlour Trinity United Church**

Lois Tuffin is a well-known local writer within the County of Peterborough who has overseen many newsrooms for a variety of community papers. Her interest covers the City of Kawartha Lakes as far as Lake Simcoe. She is involved with several volunteer agencies ranging from youth to seniors. Her university background is in journalism and French. Peterborough This Week is an award-winning twice-weekly free distribution newspaper in the city. Lois will take the audience on a tour of Peterborough and beyond.



Lois Tuffin is editor in chief of MyKawartha.com and its sister publications.

## From the President .....

November brings Remembrance Day, the date in 1918 on which the Armistice was signed to end the First World War. Every year on 11 November, ceremonies are held in Canadian communities to commemorate Canadians who died serving their country in both World Wars, the Korean War, and in conflicts since. Those ceremonies also provide the chance to thank, in person, surviving veterans for their service and sacrifices, and to remember family and friends who experienced war. At this time of year, especially, I think of my late father who was severely injured by a munitions explosion while serving with the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps in Britain during the Second World War. I also remember two gentlemen with whom I worked for many years.

Gunji Tada was born in Japan, but escaped to Canada in the 1930s when he reached the age of mandatory military service. He did not agree with his country's occupation of Korea (1910-45) nor its invasion of Manchuria (1931), and had no desire to be part of the Japanese expansionist military force. Gunji settled in British Columbia, helping his aunt and uncle to operate their fruit farm. When Japan entered the Second World War, he and his family were interned by the Canadian government and their property was confiscated. It was not returned at war's end, so Gunji moved to Toronto and started a new life there with his wife and daughter.

Mike Worotniak was born in Ukraine to a well-off farm family. He was educated in Kiev, Poland, and Moscow (when I knew Mike, he spoke five languages), but was drafted into the Soviet Red Army at the age of fifteen to fight Hitler's invading army. At one point he hid in a snowbank for two days while German troops marched over him. When he tried to swim a nearly-frozen river to reach Soviet lines, the enemy machine-gunned the water around him. Mike surrendered and spent the next two years in a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany. Upon his liberation in 1945, Mike chose to live in London, England, but then moved to Toronto to get further away from the Soviets' threat – he was considered a military deserter because he had not returned to the Soviet Union. For the rest of his life, Mike believed that the KGB might arrive and take him back to the Soviet Union for punishment. He did well financially in Toronto, but never married or had a family.

Both Gunji and Mike have passed away, but I am honoured that they trusted me enough as a friend to tell me their extraordinary life stories, and have given me the opportunity to pass on these personal histories. Thank you Gunji and Mike.

**Don Willcock**

## Bus trip to Bobcaygeon on September 28

The Peterborough Historical Society's bus trip to Bobcaygeon was enjoyed by all participants. The weather co-operated and a full day of activities, including a visit to Settlers' Village, a boat trip around Boyd Island, a visit to the Boyd Heritage Museum and a presentation on the history of the three locks was capped off by a visit to the Kawartha Winery and a tasting of their many fine fruit wines. This was an informative and enjoyable outing and an important fund raiser for the Society. It is hoped future outings will garner more support and help generate the necessary revenue needed to keep our Society and its Museum functioning.



Group photo  
at Settlers Village

President Don Willcock sampling one of the many wines offered at Kawartha Winery





## From the Curator .....

As we approach the end of October thoughts of Thanksgiving and Hallowe'en soon give way to thoughts of the festive season lurking just around the corner. In preparation for the holiday season staff and volunteers of Hutchison House are busy planning for the following special events.

There are a couple of changes to our annual festive sale at the end of November that I would like to announce. First, the name has changed to the Hutchison House Christmas Market. It will take place on Saturday, November 26 from 10:00 am until 12:30 pm. Home baking, shortbread, fruit pies, jams, jellies and preserves will still be featured, along with other special seasonal treats. Books and other gift items will also be available for sale. Please note the deadline for Empire cheese orders is Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> for pick up on the day of our Christmas Market or by arrangement with staff. This year we will offer cheese tasting samples of some of the specialty cheeses. Orders placed on the day of the sale will be delivered to the museum within a week. Donations of goodies will be gratefully accepted during the week prior to November 26!

With an aim to introduce younger families to the museum the most notable change to the Christmas Market will be the addition of a Kid's Shopping Zone which replaces the Attic Treasures component of the sale. Items in this room will be priced low to allow children to come and shop for their friends and family. We do not intend to sell to adults, in fact, adults will only be allowed into the room if they are accompanying a child. There will be no Attic Treasures this year.

While children are in the Kid's Zone they will also have the opportunity to phone Santa at his workshop for a short chat through our direct line hooked up to a rotary telephone. We'll have a friendly elf standing by to assist them with dialing as most will not be familiar with this 'old fashioned' device.

Fans of Charles Dickens will be interested in an event scheduled at Hutchison House on Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 pm. The planning and hosting of this special event has been developed by volunteers Loretta Terry, Linda Chandler, and Carol Marsland. Mark your calendars for Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" in the Keeping Room by firelight. We will be listening to a recording of the 1939 Campbell

Soup radio show, as presented by Orson Wells, and starring Lionel Barrymore as Ebenezer Scrooge. A choice of dessert, tea and coffee will be served. The cost for this event is \$12.00 per person prepaid and seating is limited. To book tickets please call the museum office at 705-743-9710.

**Gale Fewings**



Fruit Jelly



**PETERBOROUGH  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

Phone: 705-740-2600  
info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca

**Hutchison House  
Museum**

270 Brock Street  
Peterborough Ontario  
K9H 2P9

Phone 705-743-9710  
info@hutchisonhouse.ca

Websites:  
[hutchisonhouse.ca](http://hutchisonhouse.ca)

[peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca](http://peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca)

**The Bulletin**  
Editor: **Dale Standen**  
Publisher: **Marilyn  
MacNaughton**

Bulletin ( ISSN 1484-5983)

## Historic Camp Ponacka (which means “Still Waters” in Algonquin) a Family Affair

Camp Ponacka, a boys camp located on Baptiste Lake near the south eastern tip of Algonquin Park, was the subject of the October lecture sponsored by the Peterborough Historical Society. The original camp was created in the 1930s by an American, Lester Bergey, on land owned by the Storey family. In 1946 Bruno Morawetz, whose family fled from Czechoslovakia just prior to the Nazi invasion, acquired the property after his service in the Canadian army and re-established a boys camp on the property. Beginning with only three wooden buildings – a cabin, cookhouse and doctor’s office -- the camp now contains twenty four buildings on a 130 acre parcel of land. In 1985 Bruno and his wife Gwen passed ownership of the camp to their daughter Anne and her husband Don who met and later were married at Ponacka (1979). Keeping with this family tradition, their daughter Laura married her husband Nick at Ponacka. Both generations play an active role in operating the camp and upholding the original philosophy of Bruno. The camp philosophy of “I count, I belong”, instills the values of good citizenship, lasting friendship and mutual respect while providing boys with a full program of activities that are fun and challenging. From the group of 12 boys that first went to the camp in 1947, Ponacka now attracts an international clientele that make up the more than 300 boys who attend the two four week sessions each summer. The presentation was enhanced with archival film footage from the 1950s and 1980s that brought back memories for many in the audience. President Don Willcock gave the speakers gift certificates for a heritage lunch at Hutchison House in appreciation of their talk.

**Dennis Carter-Edwards**



From the left, Don Bocking, Anne Morawetz, their daughter Laura and husband Nick, owners and operators of Camp Ponacka."